



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony
submitted to the
Education Committee**

March 1, 2023

**SB 1093 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE
POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONCERNING EDUCATION.**

**SB 1094 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF READING MODELS OR
PROGRAMS.**

SB 1095 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.

SB 1097 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL NURSES.

HB 6757 AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS.

**HB 6761 AN ACT CONCERNING A REVIEW OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY LOCATIONS AND
EQUIPMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

HB 6763 AN ACT CONCERNING AN AUDIT OF THE STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATION.

Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty and members of the Education Committee, I am Liz Brown, Member of the Waterbury Board of Education and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education's President.

CABE opposes a cap on classroom sizes at each school, section 3 of SB 1093, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee Concerning Education. Space and hiring are struggles each district faces. Tying the hands of a district does not help in solving these issues. Districts have goals they try to not go over but some districts have significant fluctuations in student enrollment during the year.

CABE supports delaying the implementation of a science of reading in SB 1094, An Act Concerning the Implementation of Reading Models or Programs. CABE would like guidance on what districts failing to get a waiver that must "begin partial implementation" must actually do.

CABE supports the portion of SB 1095, An Act Concerning School Resource Officers that requires a memorandum of understanding to guide the expectations and the work of the SRO and CABE supports an MOU being in a central location and posted. CABE opposes allowing other school district positions to assume SRO responsibilities. SROs work to provide security and guide the culture of a school and these other positions support students in individual counseling, which districts fight to maintain these services in their budgets.

CABE supports providing 15 hours of professional development to school nurses in SB 1097, An Act Concerning School Nurses. CABE opposes limiting the pool of nurses by requiring a bachelor's degree and creating a special services endorsement.

CABE supports HB 6757, An Act Concerning Teacher Performance Evaluations. I have served along with my colleague Leonard Lockhart on the working group studying this issue for the last 18 months. CABE supports an evaluation and support program and understands the need to emphasize the support guidance available to teachers to improve classroom instruction. CABE wants additional supports to be easy to access and easily tailor to the teacher in need. The word support is not defined, it should be directly linked to professional development systems and not seen as separate.

This is critical to an evaluation system that aims at improving teaching and learning linked to the entire school district. Moving away from a "check list" model of evaluation to a more collaborative, holistic approach is at the center of developing a model that is embedded in the culture of learning in a district.

The key to success is the allocation of resources and time in the school schedule to design and implement a robust professional development system linked to teacher evaluation. The work in 2012 to establish evaluations was necessary for the very reason that supports can assist an educator and thereby keep them in the profession versus leaving it. The teacher shortage reminds us of this great need for supports for educators.

CABE support HB 6761, An Act Concerning A Review of Drinking Water Supply Locations and Equipment in Public Schools. We question the need to report to three state agencies.

CABE questions the work placed on districts to comply with HB 6763, An Act Concerning An Audit of the State-Wide Mastery Examination. Much of the reporting districts already have to do may be enough to assist the SDE in the audit. While the goal to improve, streamline and reduce the use of assessment tools and examinations used to monitor performance to administration is laudable it creates more work.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.